(iii) The Commission has also recommended that the economic cost should be estimated on the basis of pooling of opening stocks available with the Food Corporation of India in the beginning of the year and stocks procured during the current year, rather than being based on the minimum support price of the current year.

On account of these changes in the methodology, which have been accepted by Government, the economic cost of wheat and rice for public distribution have been revised to Rs. 830 per quintal for wheat instead of Rs. 900 per quintal as before and to Rs. 1,130 per quintal for rice instead of Rs. 1,180 per quintal as originally estimated.

Stocks of Wheat and Rice

† 3309. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stock of wheat and rice procured in the past years is still lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the quantum of stock of wheat and rice, separately, which had been procured three years or earlier than that;

(c) whether any testing has been done to check suitability of the stocked wheat and rice for human consumption; and

(d) if so, the details of the test report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30.06.2000, Food Corporation of India was having 2.01 lakh M.Ts of wheat and 2.09 lakh M.Ts of rice, which was procured more than three years ago.

(c) and (d) The stock of wheat and rice held in the godowns of Food Corporation of India are maintained by the technically trained staff of FCI. The stocks of wheat and rice are inspected at least twice a month by the technical personnel.

The infested stocks are immediately disinfested by fumigation so that they do not deteriorate further. Chemicals are also sprayed to protect the stocks from insects. In addition, Assistant Manager (Technical) once in a month and Dy. Manager (Technical) once in three months, undertake high level inspection

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

of the stocks kept in the godowns. This process continues till the stocks are disposed of.

Branches of Super Bazar

† 3310. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of branches of Super Bazar in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the cities and towns where these branches are operating alongwith the names of the States thereof;

(c) the total number of persons employed therein as on April, 2000 along with the annual expenditure towards their salaries etc.;

(d) whether certain employees have been appointed therein to monitor its efficient functioning and administration; and

(e) if so, the number thereof alongwith the estimated annual expenditure being incurred there upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SREENTVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The branches of Super Bazar are operating in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The Super Bazar has reported that the total number of persons employed in Super Bazar as on 1st April, 2000 was 2069 and the annual expenditure towards their salaries is around Rs. 18.00 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Super Bazar has reported that the number of persons working in their Administration and Workstudy Departments is 136. The annual expenditure on the salaries of these two Departments during 1999-2000 was Rs. 1,04,80,239.44.

Toy Standards of BIS

3311. SHRI KA RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.